

Message Text

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ACTION H-03

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R 151500Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4876

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

UNCLAS CAPE TOWN 0021

E.O.11652:N/A

TAGS: OREP(BOWEN,DAVID R) US, AO'SF

SUBJ: CONGRESSMAN BOWEN'S PRESS STATEMENT ON ANGOLA

REF: STATE 305413

1. UNDER HEADING 'AID-BUT NO U.S.TROOPS'- CONGR CITY
AFTER TALKS WITH SAVIMBI AND ROBERTS, CAPE TOWN ARGUS
JANUARY 15 PRINTED FOLLOWING REPORT:

QTE UNITED STATES TROOPS SHOULD NOT BE SENT TO ANGOLA, BUT
BOTH FINANCIAL AID AND EQUIPMENT MUST BE PROVIDED BY AMERICA
TO THE FNLA AND UNITA FORCES, UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN MR.
DAVID R. BOWEN OF MISSISSIPPI, SAID IN CAPE TOWN YESTERDAY.

MR. BOWEN HAD DISCUSSIONS IN ZAIRE WITH BOTH DR. JONAS
SAVIMBI, LEADER OF UNITA, AND MR. HOLDEN ROBERTO OF THE FNLA,
BEFORE HIS PRESENT VISIT TO SOUTH AFRICA AS GUEST OF THE SOUTH
AFRICAN FOUNDATION.

'I HAVE BECOME CONVINCED THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
SHOULD PROVIDE ASSISTANCE, AND WHEN CONGRESS CONVENES ON
JANUARY 19 I SHALL TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN ATTEMPTING TO
PERSUADE CONGRESS TO GIVE ASSISTANCE' HE SAID.

MR. BOWEN SAID HE HAD BEEN MOST DISAPPOINTED AT THE U.S.
SENATE DECISION NOT TO AID THE 'ANGOLAN ALLIES' BUT THE SENATE
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DECISION WAS NOT BINDING AS SUCH ACTION REQUIRED THE JOINT

APPROVAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND CONGRESS.

'I WOULD HOPE THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD REVERSE THE SENATE DECISION, AND THAT WE MIGHT THEREFORE CONTINUE TO ALLOW THE ADMINISTRATION TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE.'

'I ASKED DR. SAVIMBI AND MR. ROBERTO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO HANDLE IT IF WE PROVIDED THEM WITH FINANCE AND EQUIPMENT. BOTH SAID: 'YES'

MR.BOWEN POINTED OUT HE WAS A SOUTHERN DEMOCRAT' AND SOMEWHAT MORE CONSERVATIVE THAN SOME MEMBERS OF MY PARTY'. SOME LIBERALS WERE 'GRIPPED IN A POST-VIETNAM MALAISE' WHILE A GREAT MANY AMERICANS DID NOT WANT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN A 'COLONIAL-STYLED WAR'.

AMERICA HAD NO MILITARY OR TREATY ASSOCIATIONS OR LEGAL OBLIGATIONS INTHE AREA OF CONFLICT.

'IT IS NOT AN AREA WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN BEFORE AND MY PERSONAL OPINION IS THAT WE HAVE NEGLECTED AFRICA AND LATIN AMERICA. UNQTE

2. SUBSTANTIALLY SAME POINTS MADE BY CONGREGEMAN BOWEN IN INTERVIEW CARRIED ON SOUTH AFRICAN TELEVISION,JANUARY 14.

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